

In the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

The present invention relates to charged particle beam devices. The devices comprise an emitter ~~(12)~~ for emitting charged particles; an aperture arrangement ~~(26; 86)~~ with at least two apertures ~~(36)~~ for separating the emitted charged particles into at least two independent charged particle beams; and an objective lens ~~(18)~~ for focusing the at least two independent charged particle beams, whereby the independent charged particle beams are focused onto the same location within the focal plane.